

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 SS-15 INR-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

SSO-00 INRE-00 /049 W

-----057051 171318Z /45S

O 171101Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2702

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 2200

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG SF WA

SUBJ: NAMIBIA: CONTACT GROUP APPROACH TO FRONT LINE STATES,
NIGERIA AND GABON

REF: (A) STATE 178550, (B) USUN 2911

1. PRESIDENT SERETSE KHAMA LEFT GABORONE BY SMALL CHARTERED JET AT 8:00 AM, JULY 17 EN ROUTE TO KHARTOUM VIA REFUELING STOPS IN LUSAKA AND NAIROBI. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC SERVICE DANIEL KWELAGOBÉ, SENIOR PRIVATE SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS JOE LEGWAILA, AND PERSONAL PHYSICIAN, DR. ALBERT MERRIWEATHER. ALREADY IN KHARTOUM ARE BOTSWANA HICOM TO ZAMBIA MOLAMO, DEPUTY PERMSEC, MINEXTAFF, MOGAMI AND BOTSWANA UN PERMREP TLOU. THE DELEGATION PLANS TO RETURN HERE BY SAME AIRCRAFT ON FRIDAY, JULY 21.

2. IN PRE-DEPARTURE DISCUSSIONS JULY 16, JOE LEGWAILA SAID THAT CONTRARY TO MEDIA REPORTS, INCLUDING RADIO BOTSWANA, MINEXTAFF ARCHIE MOGWE IS STILL IN EUROPE ON "BEEF PROMOTION" AND HAS NOT YET BEEN TO KHARTOUM. MINISTER KWELAGOBÉ IS IN EFFECT MOGWE'S REPLACEMENT SINCE LATTER IS NOT EXPECTED TO COMPLETE HIS BEEF MISSION AND ARRIVE IN KHARTOUM BEFORE SUMMIT ENDS.

3. MEETING PROVIDED OCCASION TO TRANSMIT CONTACT GROUP MESSAGE
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(AUTHORIZED REF A) WITH AGREEMENT OF UK HICOM AND FRG AMBASSADOR. LEGWAILA AGREED ON NECESSITY OF MOVING AHEAD IN UNSC. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN AT SOVIET VETO IF WALVIS BAY ISSUE REMAINS CONTENTIOUS.

4. LEGWAILA TWICE COMMENTED HE HOPED REGULAR CONTACT WOULD BE POSSIBLE BETWEEN GOB DELEGATION AND OUR EMBASSY IN KHARTOU. LEGWAILA EMPHASIZED GOB DEL INTEREST IN KEEPING INFORMED ON

"WHAT IS GOING ON IN SOUTHERN AFRICA"; HE REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO DEVELOPMENTS IN NAMIBIA, RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA ITSELF. AS INDICATION OF UTILITY OF SUCH CONTACT, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT LEGWAILA OPENLY ASSOCIATES GOB WITH "MODERATES" AND AGAINST THE "PROGRESSIVES" AND TOLD ME GOB DEL LOOKED FORWARD TO "HELPING THE MODERATES' CAUSE". FYI: HE HAD HARSH WORDS FOR THE "PROGRESSIVES", INCLUDING SPECIFICALLY PRESIDENT NYERERE, FOR DEFENDING OUTSIDE INTERVENTION ONLY IF IT IS TO SUPPORT "SO-CALLED SOCIALIST REGIMES" WHILE DENYING RIGHT OF OTHER COUNTRIES TO REQUEST OUTSIDE SUPPORT ON GROUNDS THEY ARE UNREPRESENTATIVE OR "CORRUPT". END FYI. LEGWAILA EXPECTS TWO ISSUES TO DOMINATE THE CONFERENCE: (A) RIGHT OF STATES TO ASK FOR OUTSIDE INTERVENTION, AND (B) EXISTING DISPUTES INCLUDING SHABA, ERITREA, WESTERN SAHARA, ETC.

5. COMMENT: IN ABSENCE OF MINEXTAFF MOGWE, LEGWAILA IS PRE-SIDENT KHAMA'S PRINCIPAL FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISOR. HE IS FRIENDLY, ALERT, APPROACHABLE AND INTERESTED IN HAVING CONTACT WITH US. MOGAMI AND KWELAGOBWE WILL ALSO BE WELL-INFORMED AND RESPONSIVE BUT ARE SOMEWHAT LESS OPEN AND CONFIDENT OF THEMSELVES. WE BELIEVE ANY INITIATIVE U.S. REPS AT KHARTOUM FIND IT POSSIBLE TO TAKE TO CONTACT GOB DEL, ESPECIALLY JOE LEGWAILA, WILL PROVE EMINENTLY WORTHWHILE.

6. DEPARTMENT REPEAT AS DESIRED.

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 17 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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